

From captain.tom@livingoceanadventures.com



Sent Tuesday, August 10, 2010 9:23 am

To hihwmanagementplan@noaa.gov

Subject management review comment

Aloha;

I would like to take this opportunity to comment on the sanctuary's interest in adding another resource. I hope that Spinner dolphins become that added resource.

I started showing visitors to Kona our year-round whales and dolphins in the late 1970's. Having had a formal education in the natural sciences and trained as an ecological researcher I knew the importance of keeping my people in the boat. Allowing humans in the water with the mammals is detrimental to their long term health as has been shown by research. It is yet another version of "loving them to death".

To see the mobs of swimmers pursuing Spinner dolphins during their rest periods close to shore is heartbreaking. Last week I witnessed 8 "swim with the dolphin" boats putting 40-50 swimmers into a pod of ~30 Spinners, many of which were juveniles. It was mayhem!

I'm not interested in destroying any ocean related businesses, I wish them all well. But, obviously, these businesses are not enacting any sensible guidelines or policies at all. What happen to enforcing the Marine Mammal Protection Act?

Thank you for your consideration of this issue.

Sincerely, Capt. Thomas Bottrell. Living Ocean Adventures